

1 CLAIMS

2 I claim:

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4 1. A denture comprising:

5
6 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between
7 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the
8 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and
9 a tooth receiving portion;

10 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

11 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material
12 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum
13 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when
14 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but
15 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material
16 conforming to the configuration of a gum received within the gum-
17 receiving member.

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19 2. The denture as described in claim 1, wherein the gum receiving
20 material is a denture reline material.

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22 3. The denture as described in claim 2, wherein the reline material
23 is selected from the group consisting of acrylic reline material
24 and silicone reline material.

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26 4. The denture as described in claim 3, wherein the gum is a gum
27 of a user of the denture.

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29 5. The denture as described in claim 4, wherein the denture is an
30 upper denture, and the upper denture does not include a palate.

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32 6. The denture as described in claim 4, wherein the reline
33 material has a thickness between approximately 1 mm and
34 approximately 5 mm.

1 7. A method for fitting a denture in situ in the mouth of an
2 individual, the method comprising the steps of:

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4 selecting the denture to fit the individual, the denture
5 comprising:

6 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between
7 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the
8 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and
9 a tooth receiving portion;

10 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

11 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material
12 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum
13 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when
14 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but
15 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

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17 preparing the selected denture by heating the selected denture
18 to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100
19 degrees C (212 degrees F);

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21 positioning the prepared denture within the mouth, the gum
22 receiving member receiving a gum of the individual; and

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24 fitting the denture by the application of a force to the
25 denture.

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27 8. The method as described in claim 7, wherein the force is a
28 biting force.

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30 9. The method as described in claim 8, wherein the force is
31 applied for a time period sufficient for the gum receiving member
32 to conform to the gum.

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34 10. The method as described in claim 9, wherein the time period is
35 between approximately 1 minute and approximately 30 minutes.

1 11. The method as described in claim 9, wherein the heating step
2 comprises immersion of the selected denture in water at a
3 temperature between approximately 38 degrees C and approximately
4 95 degrees C.

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6 12. The method as described in claim 11, wherein the heating step
7 comprises immersion of the selected denture in water at a
8 temperature between approximately 45 degrees C and approximately
9 80 degrees C.

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11 13. The method as described in claim 11, further comprising the
12 step of fitting a second denture in the mouth, the second denture
13 being fitted in opposition to the first denture.

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15 14. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the individual is
16 edentulous.

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18 15. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the first denture
19 is selected from the group consisting of a lower denture and an
20 upper denture.

1 16. A kit for fitting a denture in situ in the mouth of an
2 individual, the kit comprising:

3 a denture, comprising:

4 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between
5 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the
6 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and
7 a tooth receiving portion;

8 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

9 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material
10 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum
11 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when
12 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but
13 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.); the reline material
14 conformable to the configuration of an item received within the
15 gum-receiving member; and •

16
17 a set of instructions.

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19 17. The kit as described in claim 16, wherein the denture is
20 selected from the group consisting of an upper denture; a lower
21 denture; and an upper denture and a lower denture.

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23 18. The kit as described in claim 16, wherein the upper denture
24 does not include a palate.
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1 19. An upper denture comprising:

2 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between
3 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the
4 inner and the outer walls, and a tooth receiving portion;

5 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

6 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material
7 applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum
8 receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when
9 subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but
10 less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

11 the tray being generally U-shaped and lacking a palate.
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13 20. A denture for being fitted in situ in the mouth of an
14 individual in need of a denture, the denture comprising:
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16 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between
17 the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the
18 inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and
19 a tooth receiving portion;

20 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

21 a layer of denture reline material, the denture reline
22 material selected from the group consisting of acrylic reline
23 material and silicone reline material, the reline material applied
24 to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving
25 member, the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to
26 a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100
27 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material conforming to the
28 configuration of a gum received within the gum-receiving member.
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